

PERISCOPE.

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TREPHINING FOR CEREBRAL HÆMORRHAGE: A SERIES OF TREPHININGS FOR VARIOUS OCCURRENCES, VERTIGO, TRUE AND SYMPTOMATIC EPILEPSY.

Championnière (*Journal de Médecine*, p. 532, 1889) presented to the Académie de Médecine, under the above title, a fresh case and statistics of thirty cases of operation, without a single case of death or untoward occurrence. These thirty operations were performed in cases in which there had been no antecedent traumatism. The new case, here added, is as follows:

A man, aged fifty-three years, had an attack of cerebral hæmorrhage twenty months ago. Right hemiplegia; late contracture of the hand and epileptiform attacks ensued. Focus was localized at the middle part of the precentral convolution. By means of craniometrical measurements the corresponding portion of the skull was mapped out, and the trephine applied. A focus of an old cerebral hæmorrhage was found. The focus was removed and the surrounding walls carefully cleansed with antiseptic solutions. Suture of dura and scalp; drainage. Duration of operation one hour and a quarter.

The day following the operation the contracture of the hand had ceased. Power had also greatly returned. When the patient was allowed to get up, his walk was found to be easier. His speech is more distinct and his intelligence greater. During four months he has had no convulsion, whereas prior to the operation they recurred at least every two weeks.

UNE FAMILLE DE DÉGÉNÉRÉS INCENDIAIRES.

Dr. Émile Laurent (*Annales Médico-Psychologiques*, p. 355, 1889) states that pyromania may develop under three

distinct forms. In some cases it is simply an episode in the course of another more or less systematized delirium. In other cases it is the result of an irresistible impulse. This is real pyromania; here the pyromaniac burns, the same as the dipsomaniac drinks. Finally, the third class of pyromaniacs are those individuals who are suffering from some form of degeneration, and who commit the incendiarism as a result of some futile motive.

He gives here the history of an entire family of pyromaniacs. All the members of this family are hereditarily degenerated, almost weak-minded, without will-power or constancy. In this family there are three incendiaries. These three differed from ordinary pyromaniacs, inasmuch as the incendiary impulse did not develop at the time of puberty; the one case had long passed this period, and the two others had not yet reached it. Neither did they seem to obey any morbid impulse returning periodically and under almost identical circumstances. On the contrary, they were always guided by a certain motive. In the one case it was the desire for vengeance, any supposed insult being avenged by throwing a burning torch into the enemy's house; and the other two it was simply self-gratification, the pleasure experienced at seeing the flames.

These cases differ legally from the cases of incendiarism due to morbid impulse, for the former suffer only from a weakened will, and are able to combat the criminal idea, while for the latter any struggle is impossible.

UN CAS DE PSYCHOSE ÉPILEPTIQUE.

Dr. Chatelan (*Annales Médico-Psychologiques*, p. 383, 1889) first recalls some well-known facts about psychoses following epilepsy, and then gives the detailed account of a legal case. The case is instructive in so far as the patient apparently was the possessor of perfect intellectual health. A young man occupies himself with all the duties required of him, does office-work, studies at a commercial college, and leads his daily life without exciting any surmise that he is not as he should be. Suddenly, without any provocation, he makes an attack upon a stranger, is arrested, and medi-